

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Deletions are in **[bold and brackets]** and insertions are underlined.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the following claims:

6. (TWICE AMENDED) The oligonucleotide according to Claim 5, which is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:**[45-53]**46, 48, 50, and 52.

7. (TWICE AMENDED) Two or more isolated or purified oligonucleotides for the specific amplification of *Staphylococci* species comprising at least one nucleotide sequence of about 15 to 45 base pairs more than 60% homologous to SEQ ID NO:1 and/or at least one oligonucleotide about 15 to 45 base pairs more than 60% homologous to SEQ ID NOS:1, **[and 45-53]**46, 48, 50, and 52.

8. (TWICE AMENDED) The oligonucleotides according to Claim 7 wherein said oligonucleotides have more than 70% homology to SEQ ID NOS:1, **[and 45-53]**46, 48, 50, and 52.

9. (TWICE AMENDED) The oligonucleotides according to Claim 8 wherein said oligonucleotides have more than 80% homology to SEQ ID NOS:1, **[and 45-53]**46, 48, 50, and 52.

10. (TWICE AMENDED) The oligonucleotides according to Claim 9 wherein said oligonucleotides have more than 90% homology to SEQ ID NOS:1, **[and 45-53]**46, 48, 50, and 52.

11. (TWICE AMENDED) The oligonucleotides according to Claim 7 wherein said oligonucleotides are selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:1, **[18-44]**18-40, 42, and 44.